

### WHY A CHILDREN'S WAIVER?

- Children are different than adults. They are dependent on parents/caregivers in a home setting. Parents are primary decision makers and legal guardians usually.
- Services in a home-based setting need to be individualized to meet the unique needs of the child/family and can't be defined broadly in major categories of service. Children change quickly and are intensely affected by the needs of the family. Services to a child in a family are very different than the needs of persons in other settings.
- Home-based services require a home visitor model with travel to the home. Under current waiver requirements written to cover case managers for adult services, only about 50% of the FSS time is billable and travel time and costs are not reimbursed by the current waiver. Most adult services are center based group settings in a community. Services are not scheduled around or depend on family structure/schedule, crisis, weather, and all the day to day changes in the lives of children and families.
- Children's services need to be highly flexible and individualized to meet the dynamic needs of children and families. Even the frequency and intensity of the service needs to be dynamic and individualized. The constraints of a waiver designed for adult group settings where the structure is not dynamic or individualized is detrimental to the family driven model so essential for children's services.
- Scientific evidence of early brain development supports the incredibly rapid growth in the early years. Children's service models must utilize the latest evidenced based intervention strategies provided by professional college graduate certified staff skilled in early intervention competencies and must be provided in natural family environments that are constantly subject to the day to day change and crisis of life. This demands services that constantly change resulting in family service plan and cost plan changes.
- Children's services have been exemplary. Deficits in adult services and CMS requirements have resulted in waiver changes that are intended to support quality in adult services. Many of these changes are not appropriate for children and families. The rate structure for a FSS with the multidimensional, dynamic, flexible service model required for constantly developing children doesn't fund optimal service supports. Children's providers cannot fund required expenses with current rates intended to meet fixed costs of adult community group structured settings. Even the paper work and quality assurance requirements for children's services are more time intensive, less efficient and demand duplication of effort.

Almost 50% of the people receiving developmental disabilities services are children.

# **Children's Disability Services**

**A professional association of agencies who provide services to  
children with disabilities and their families**

## **2011 Legislative Session Agenda**

### **Children's Disability Services Providers**

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### **Children's Disability Services 2011 Legislative Priorities**

- Support Part C Early intervention services expansion.
- Support continued funding for the autism waiver.
- Support the creation of a separate waiver for children services.
- Support a provider rate increase.